



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
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PRESS RELEASE

World War II Veteran Receives Over 7,200 Cards on 100th Birthday

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BONHAM — Today, Veterans Land Board (VLB) Chairwoman and Texas Land Commissioner Dr. Dawn Buckingham M.D., is honored to update Texans on U.S. Army Veteran and Clyde W. Coper Texas State Veterans Home resident Ethelyn Szad Bell's request to receive 100 cards for her 100th birthday on October 4th. In a stunning show of support for this incredible Texas Veteran, Mrs. Bell received over 7,200 cards from across our state and nation.

"It is deeply inspiring to see not only the Bonham community but also people from across our state and nation wholeheartedly embrace their duty to honor our Veterans. Thank you to the staff at the Clyde W. Coper Texas State Veterans Home for helping make Mrs. Bell's special day possible," said Commissioner Buckingham. "As Chairwoman of the Veterans Land Board, I am honored to ensure our military men and women are adequately respected. However, there is always more we can do for these patriots, and I encourage all Texans to learn more about our impactful Veterans programs that aid and assist those who have sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today.



During the party, Mrs. Bell was presented with a Texas Flag that was sent by Congressman Pat Fallon. Bonham City Council Member Wayne Moore offered a Certificate of Recognition from Mayor H.L. Compton. Mrs. Bell was also presented with a signed certificate from Commissioner Buckingham.



Mrs. Bell also celebrated her once-in-a-lifetime achievement with gifts, beautiful flower arrangements, two large sheet cakes, punch, and a specially requested margarita. Surrounded by her friends, caring staff, and thousands of cards from well wishers, Mrs. Bell expressed her appreciation for everyone who helped make this an extraordinary day.



Mrs. Bell began her service with the U.S. Army in March of 1945 at the age of 21. After completing the Basic Training Course for Army Nurses, Mrs. Bell served with the Army Nurse Corps in the Philippines and Nagoya, Japan during World War II. During her time in the service, she rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant and was honorably discharged in June of 1946.



The VLB's 100 for 100 program spotlights Texas Veterans who are turning 100 years old and are residents at one of the nine, soon to be 10, Texas State Veterans Homes. Through the program, a resident can request to receive 100 birthday cards for their special day and the VLB, along with the Texas General Land Office, will share the Veteran's request on social media and with state and local news.

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